Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3130
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
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AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
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UNCLAS OSLO 0438

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PFOR, CZ, NO

SUBJECT: NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL PARTIES CHASTIZE CZECH REGIME FOR HANDLING OF OPPOSITION

- 1. FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND TOLD PARLIAMENT DURING QUESTION PERIOD JAN 26 THAT HE HAD INFORMED CZECH AMBASSADOR SUTKA IN OSLO AND CZECH FOREIGN MINISTER CHNOUPEK ABOUT THE CONCERN AND DISQUIET CAUSED IN NORWAY BY THE TREATMENT OF THE OPPOSITION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. HE TOLD PARLIAMENT IT WOULD BE REASONABLE FOR THE ARRESTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA RECENTLY TO BE TAKEN UP AT THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE MEETINGS NOW UNDERWAY IN STRASBOURG. TO A QUESTION HE REPLIED HE HELD OPEN THE POSSIBILITY OF COMBINED NORDIC ACTION ON THE MATTER.
- 2. REPORTEDLY ON JAN 24 AT THE LABOR PARTY NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING PRIME MINISTER NORDLI AND PARTY CHAIRMAN STEEN SHARPLY CRITICIZED CZECH AUTHORITIES FOR THEIR TREATMENT OF DISSIDENTS AND INDICATED GOVERNMENT HAS SO INFORMED CZECH GOVERNMENT. STEEN SAID DEVELOPMENTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA UNCLASSIFIED

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WERE CLEARLY INFLUENCING NORWAY'S INTEREST IN ANY EXPANSION OF RELATIONS WITH THE EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRY.

3. EVEN SOCIALIST LEFT PARTY HAS FELT CONSTRAINED TO CRITICIZE RECENTLY CZECH GOVERNMENT FOR ITS ACTIONS. LEADERS OF OTHER POLITICAL PARTIES HAVE JOINED GROWING CHORUS OF CRITICISM. ANDERS

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